Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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O P 140540Z DEC 74
FM USMISSION USUN NY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8500
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

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EXDIS

DEPT PASS CINCPAC IMMEDIATE FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UNGA KS KN

SUBJ: KOREA IN 29TH UNGA: DECEMBER 13 SITREP

REF: USUN 5930

- 1. SUMMARY: KOREAN WORKING GROUP DELS DEC 13 AGREED, IF ROKG AND USG CONCUR, TO SEEK TO BRING ABOUT PLENARY PROCEDURAL CONSENSUS AS SUBSTITUTE FOR VOTE ON FRIENDLY RES AND, POSSIBLY, ON REINTRODUCED HOSTILE RES. AMB PARK IS STILL ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN ROKG AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY
- 2. WE MET MORNING AND AFTERNOON DEC 13 WITH KOREAN WORKING GROUP (CANADA, ENTERHLENAS, NEW ZEALAND, PHILIPPINES, THAILAND, UK AND KOREA) TO CONTINUE PLANNING FOR PLENARY ACTION ON KOREAN ITEM DEC 17 DISCUSSIONS TOOK PLACE IN CONTEXT OF CONTINUING UNCERTAINTY ABOUT INTENTIONS OF OTHER SIDE AND THUS WITH NECESSARY ASSUMPTION THAT NORTH KOREANS STILL INTEND TO REINTRODUCE HOSTILE RES IN PLENARY AND OBTAIN MAJORITY SUPPORT FOR IT DESPITE ITS DEFEAT IN FIRST COMMITTEE.
- 3. DISCUSSION OF SUBSTANCE COMPROMISE TEXT GIVEN US BY DANISH AND SWEDISH MISOFFS (DATAFAXED IO/UNP) FOCUSED ON POSTURE TO BE ADOPTED TOWARDS THOSE DELEGATIONS SINCE ROK MISSION DECLARED CONFIDENTIAL

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IT UNACCEPTABLE TO ROKG (USUN EXPRESSED NO SUBJSTANTIVE VIEW ON

THIS TEXT.) GRGOUP AGREED THAT RESPONSE SHOULD BE PROVIDED TO NORDIC DELS DESIGNED TO MAINTAIN THEIR AMITY FOR POSSIBLE HELP AT LATER STAGE INCLUDING SWEDISH VOTE IN PLENARY AGAINST HOSTILE RES, DEFEAT OF WHICH REMAINS A PRIME CONCERN.

- 4. WE DISCUSSED IMPORTANT QUESTION PROBLEM. WHILE USUN AND ROK REPS MADE CLEAR WE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS, GROUP GENERALLY BELIEVED THAT IT WOULD BE ADVANTAGEOUS FOR ARTICLE 18 TWO-THIRDS REQUIREMENT TO BE APPLIED IF OTHER SIDE OR NEUTRAL DEL TOOK INITIATIVE TO THIS END. PARTICIPANTS IN MEETING AGREED THAT WE ACQUIESCE IN SUCH INITIATIVE BY ANOTHER DEL SINCE THEY FELT IT TO BE MORE IMPORTANT TO ESTABLISH THE IMPORTANT QUESTION PRINCIPLE RELATING TO KOREA RESOLUTIONS RES THAN TO HAVE THE PLENARY FORMALLY ADOPT THE FRINEDLY RES. HOW OTHERS WOULD VOTE IN AN IMPORTANT QUESTION RES, IF VOTING REQUIRED, WAS NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR, ALTHOUGH THAIS DID SAY THEY MIGHT WISH TO ABSTAIN. GROUP DISCUSSED INCONCLUSIVELY POSSIBILITY OF FRIENDLY COSPONSOR DELS PROPOSING APPLICATION OF ARTICLE 18; HOWEVER, NETHERLANDS SEEMED TO FEEL IT DESIRABLE EVEN FOR OUR SIDE TO DO SO, STATING OUR RES "IS NOT OF SUCH IMPORTANCE THAT WE SHOULD FOREGO PRINCIPLE". ALL INDICATED CONCERN THAT IF TWO-THIRDS REQUIREMENT NOT APPLIED THIS YEAR, HOSTIEL RES WOULD BE ADOPTED NEXT YEAR.
- 5. MUCH OF MORNING AND AFTERNOON MEETINGS WAS DEVOTED TO DISCUSSION OF PROCEDURAL CONSENSUS. CANADA AND NETHERLANDS IN FACT, SUGGESTED A TEXT ALMOST IDENTICAL TO USUN TEXT REPORTED REFTEL PARA 3. WHEN WE GAVE RESPONSE TO NORDICS ON SUBSTANTIVE CONSENSUS, DANES REVEALED THEY ALSO HAD PROCEDURAL TEXT IN MIND. (WE DID NOT REVEAL TO ANY DEL DURING DAY THAT WE ALSO HAD PREPARED PROCEDURAL CONSENSUS TEXT.)
- 6. ALL PARTICIPANTS AT WORKING GROUP MEETING SAW MERIT IN SEEKING PROCEDURAL CONSENSUS. CANADA AND NETHERLANDS WERE STRONGEST ADVOCATES DURING MEETING (WITH UK STRONGLY SUPPORTING IT IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH US), AND FILIPINO, THAI, JAPANESE AND NEW ZEALAND DELS SAID THEY SAW VALUE IN EFFORT AND WOULD BE WILLING ADOPT THIS TACTIC. WHILE WE AND KOREANS PARTICIPATED IN DISCUSSION OF SUCH A MOVE, WE RESERVED OUR POSITIONS. ALL OTHER REPS AGREED THAT DECISION CONFIDENTIAL

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BASICALLY WOULD HAVE TO DEPEND ON ATTITUDE OF ROK AND US AS PRINCIPAL PARTIES TO KOREAN QUESTION. GROUP DIFFERED ON POSSIBILITIES OF SUCCESS, PRINCIPAL CONCERN BEING THAT NORTH KOREANS WOULD REFUSE ANY CONSENSUS, BUT GROUP GENERALLY AGREED THAT NOTHING COULD BE LOST BY INDICATING HOSPITALITY TOWARDS CONSENSUS PROPOSED BY INDEPENDENT PARTIES. ON THE CONTRARY, VIEW WAS THAT, EVEN IF CONSENSUS EFFORT FAILED, CORRIDOR KNOWLEDGE NEXT WEEK THAT WE HAD BEEN RECEPTIVE TO CONSENSUS

IN CONTRAST WITH NORTH KOREAN OBSTINANCE MIGHT GAIN US ONE OR TWO ADDITIONAL VOTES FOR THE FRIENDLY RES AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, AGAINST THE HOSTILE RES (E.G. NORWAY AND SWEDEN) IF NORTH KOREANS REINTRODUCE IT IN PLENARY.

- 7. WORKING GROUP MEMBERS AGREED THAT AN ADDITIONAL ADVANTAGE TO ACHIEVING PROCEDURAL CONSENSUS WOULD BE THAT IT WOULD ENABLE US TO AVOID OUR HAVING TO FACE FIFFICULT IMPORTANT QUESTION DILEMNA. VARIOUS DELS MADE THIS POINT IN BOTH MORNING AND AFTERNOON SESSIONS, INCLUDING IN FINAL INDIVIDUAL SUMMARY STATEMENTS ON ATTITUDES TOWARDS CONSENSUS.
- 8. WITH PLENARY ACTION ONLY FOUR DAYS AWAY, GROUP UNANIMOUSLY BELIEVED IT NECESSARY, IF PROCEDURAL CONSENSUS ROUTE IS DECIDED UPON, TO MOVE IN THAT DIRECTION AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE. WE CAME TO NO PRECISE CONCLUSION ABOUT MECHANICS OF OBTAINING CONSENSUS, BUT IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED THAT FIRST COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ORTIZ DE ROZAS WOULD BE BEST AGENT FOR THIS ACTION. WE SAW ADVANTAGE, IN LIGHT OF NORDIC INITIATIVE ON SUBSTANTIVE COMPROMISE AND OF FACT THAT DENMARK ALREADY HAS PROCEDURAL CONSENSUS IN MIND, IN STIMULATING ORTIZ DE ROZAS THROUGH THESE NORDICS.
- 9. ROK INFORMED GROUP THAT IT WAS ATTEMPTING TO GET THROUGH TO FONMIN KIM TO SEEK INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN PROCEDURAL CONSENSUS. GROUP AGREED TO REMAIN IN TOUCH ON SATURDAY TO COORDINATE LAUNCHING OF PROCEDURAL CONSENSUS EFFORT IN EVENT ROK MISSION (AND USUN) RECEIVED AUTHORIZATION BY THAT TIME.
- 10. IN EARLY EVENING, WE INFORMED ROK MINISTER HAM (PER KIMBALL-THAYER TELECON) THAT WE WOULD BE WILLING TO WORK TOWARD PROCEDURAL CONSENSUS, IF ROKG DECIDED THIS TO CONFIDENTIAL

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BE ADVISABLE. AMB PARK LATER INFORMED US THAT, BETWEEN END OF WORKING GROUP MEETING AND OUR REPORT TO HIM THAT WE HAD RECEIVED AUTHORIZATION TO GO ALONG, HE HAD REACHED FONMIN KIM IN TOKYO. IN THAT ELECON, KIM HAD NOT AGREED WITH PARK'S RECOMMENDATION THAT WE SEEK CONSENSUS. PARK TOLD US, HOWEVER, THAT HE WILL PRESS AGAIN FOR ROKG AGREEMENT, HOPING IT STILL MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO DO SO BY SATURDAY. (WE HAVE IMPRESSION THAT ROK MISSION THINKS FINAL DECISION WILL BE MADE BY PRESIDENT PARK.) AMBASSADOR PARK EVIDENTLY IS PERSONALLY FULL CONVINCED THAT WE HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE AND PERHAPS MUCH TO GAIN BY CONSENSUS EFFORT. IMPORTANT QUESTION ISSUE, WE BELIEVE, IS ONE MAJOR ELEMENT IN ROK MISSION THINKING. OF MOST IMMEDIATE IMPORTANCE TO ROK MISSION--AND WE BELIEVE THIS TO BE PRINCIPAL GROUNDS ON WHICH MISSION URGING SEOUL APPROVAL--IS THAT CONSENSUS

WOULD ELIMINATE POSSIBILITY OF PLENARY ADOPTION OF HOSTILE RESOLUTION.

1. ROK MISSION HERE CLEARLY HOPES THAT EMBASSY SEOUL WILL BE INSTRUCTED TO URGE FAVORABLE ROKG DECISION ON CONSENSUS. WE HAVE BEEN CAREFUL TO AVOID ANY IMPLICATION THAT DEPARTMENT WOULD SENT SUCH INSTRUCTIONS. BENNETT

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CINCPAC.

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